



JGSCV

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

June, 2012

Volume 7 Issue 9

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV had a superb program on May 6th with members sharing their experiences in visiting their ancestral towns. The high degree of audience interaction was indicative of the great interest in the topic. Hopefully, more JGSCV members will have this ultimate genealogical experience of visiting where their ancestors lived.

We are very thankful to Ken Saul, M.D. who shared his experiences in Belarus and Lithuania; Sara Applebaum in Poland, Sonia Hoffman in Lithuania, Mike Sander in Germany and Ed Jones in Wales. I gave an introduction, which included one of my ancestral towns' visits, Stawiski, Poland. See page 6 for brief highlights of the program.

The 5-minute genealogical hint: Using City Directories/Telephone Directories to Help With 1940 US Census Addresses showed how I succeeded in NYC but will have to wait until Connecticut is name-indexed. The handout has been added to the JGSCV website (www.jgscv.org) under meetings/prior and the meeting date.

At the meeting I indicated that the various genealogical companies had name-indexed the following the states:

VISITORS TO THEIR ANCESTRAL TOWNS



May speakers (l-r) Ken Saul, Sonia Hoffman, Ed Jones, Sara Applebaum, Mike Sander

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, June 3rd 1:30-3:30 PM

Ships of Our Ancestors

JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder will unveil a new presentation with detailed descriptions of the ships that brought our ancestors to America and their journeys to and from those vessels.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*FamilySearch.org Colorado and Delaware

*FindMyPast.org Delaware, Colorado and Kansas

MyHeritage.com Rhode Island

*Identifies companies collaborating as "The Community Project" (and includes the National Archives and ProQuest)

Since our May meeting, Archives.com states it has added the name-indexed states of Florida, Kansas, New Hampshire, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming. FamilySearch added name-indexed states of Kansas, New Hampshire, Oregon, Utah and Virginia. At this time, MyHeritage.com site includes a partially name-indexed New York. Look for more states to be added by all companies very soon!

The Jewish Community Library at Milken is closing and JGSCV is the recipient of some of its genealogical library. See page 13 for the full story and page 10 for books added to our traveling library since January.

Congress is still considering the genealogical community as part of the problem with the fraudulent use of the commercial version of the Death Master File known as the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). The House Ways and Means Subcommittees on Oversight and on Social Security held a (joint) third hearing on May 8th. Some government entities testifying, focused on the majority of identity theft that is caused by people stealing Social Security numbers from the living. However, Congressional members and representatives of the Social Security Administration continued to talk about closing off the SSDI due to some fraudsters filing for false tax refunds by taking Social Security numbers from the deceased listed in the SSDI.

JGSCV member Karen Lewy volunteered to sign-up both members and attendees for the Ralph's Community Contribution program. Bring your Ralph's card to the June 3rd meeting and Karen will show you how you can help JGSCV each time you shop – at no cost to you. If you do not have a Ralph's card, you may obtain one (free) at a Ralph's store. If you have any questions, you can reach Karen at Karen@jgscv.org.

We just learned our meeting dates for September 2012-June 2013 from Temple Adat Elohim...See page 12 for the dates. Thank you Temple Adat Elohim for continuing to co-sponsor our meetings!

Our June 3rd program is presented for the first time by founding member Hal Bookbinder, "Ships of Our Ancestors". Hal is always an outstanding speaker and we are delighted to premiere his new program. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Jan Meisels Allen



ABOUT JGSCV . . .

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County meets once a month, usually on a Sunday. Meetings are oriented to the needs of the novice as well as the more experienced genealogist. Members share materials, research methods and ideas, as well as research success or failures. Members have access to the JGSCV library located on special shelves at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Members also receive our monthly newsletter, which is circulated by email.

2012 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send a check in the appropriate amount payable to JGSCV and addressed to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain the new/renewal membership form on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

RANDOM ACTS OF GENEALOGICAL KINDNESS REAPPEARS

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) was a website where volunteers offered to help others in resolving genealogical issues. Its creator passed away and site ceased operation. The new RAOGK is a wiki and requires that an account be created to access the resources. But, chats and discussions are available: <http://tinyurl.com/cjr3sbz>

NYC PHOTOS FROM THE MID 1800's

Almost 900,000 photos have been posted online by the NYC Dept. of Records from the Municipal Archives collection featuring color photos of every city building in the mid 1980's that was used to update municipal records. Also included are more than 1,300 photos of the WPA: <http://tinyurl.com/7mh83n2>

NEW DATABASES AVAILABLE FOR PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) has released 14 new databases. Five databases including information during the British Mandate period are in English. The remaining 9 that include the early years of the State of Israel, are in Hebrew. You must first register (no charge): <http://tinyurl.com/7yq874y>

NEW DNA TEST FROM ANCESTRY.COM

Ancestry.com launched AncestryDNA in an attempt to combine its family history resources with a global database of DNA samples. Ancestry.com's process will compare the DNA of participants with test results from the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy database to help learn more about the ethnic background of participants as well as to locate relatives. A genetic match will result in a comparison of trees in Ancestry.com. AncestryDNA costs \$99 and is available by invitation only. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/cb6qxr4>

GESHER GALICIA UPDATES

The All Galicia Database has been updated to include newly transcribed homeowners' lists from the 'Cadastral Maps and Landowners Records Project' as well as a special Holocaust-era data set. For more information and a more comprehensive list of updated databases visit <http://tinyurl.com/6wbbkbyn>



Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County* (JGSCV) (*and surrounding areas)

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, with co-sponsor Temple Adat Elohim
Sunday, June 3, 2012 1:30-3:30 pm
Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

The Program: Ships of Our Ancestors

During the active years of Ellis Island, 83,000 ship arrivals were recorded. Between 1880 and 1914, about two million Jewish immigrants arrived from Europe, with most passing through Ellis Island. Until the age of flight, immigrants arrived by sea, first on sailing ships and later on steamships after the mid 19th century. This presentation focuses on the vessels on which our ancestors traveled, discussing the shift from sailing ships to steam powered including the governmental regulations, which made ship travel safer and more civilized. Hal will address the experience of our ancestors in getting to the port of embarkation, being processed for passage, life aboard the vessels and the Ellis Island experience.



Speaker: Hal Bookbinder,
founding member of
JGSCV and former
president of JGSLA
and IAJGS,
created, and
continues to edit
the annual Jewish Genealogical
Yearbook. In 2010, he received
the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement
Award. Hal is currently serving on
the JewishGen Board of Governors.
Hal has been researching eight



family lines for over 27 years,
identifying 4,000 relatives and
tracing two of these lines into the
late 1700s.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of
the Conejo Valley and Ventura
County is dedicated to sharing
genealogical information, techniques,
and research tools with anyone
interested in Jewish genealogy and
family history. There is no charge
to attend the meeting. Anyone may
join JGSCV.

JGSCV UPDATES . . .

Traveling Library categories A and B will be at next meeting. Please check the website for the books included in each category <http://jgscv.org>. To request a book that is not in either category, please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting at president@jgscv.org. See page 10 for new additions to the Traveling Library.

THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 15 minutes before each meeting where a knowledgeable JGSCV member will be available to answer questions, offer direction and maybe even a solution to a brick wall or two. Marion Werle (center in photo left) led The Schmoozing Corner on May 6th. JGSCV founding member Werner Frank will facilitate the Schmoozing Corner at the June 3rd meeting.



You can also help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com simply by entering the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at www.jgscv.org and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one below). This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



Join or renew your Ralphs Community Contribution Program membership at www.ralphs.com. Simple directions are also available on our website at www.jgscv.org under 'notices'. You may sign up for Ralphs Community Contribution at our meetings—but you **MUST** bring with you a Ralphs card obtained from any Ralphs store. For more information contact Karen Lewy (above) at karen@jgscv.org or look for her at the meetings. Remember, just by shopping at Ralphs, JGSCV receives a contribution at no cost to you.

Don't forget to 'friend' us on facebook and visit often for updates between meetings: <http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Irving Camhi

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY 6TH MEETING:

VISITING YOUR ANCESTRAL TOWN/SHTETL/KAHILA

By Jan Meisels Allen

Before you go on the experience of a lifetime to visit where your ancestors lived, meet others in the town and see how they lived, it is best if you do some research. Read the town's Yizkor book before you go. Not only will it give you given an orientation of the Jewish area, it may have maps and photographs of the Jewish sections of the town that could help when you visit. You may be able to trace your ancestors' footsteps. To find a translated Yizkor book, go to: www.jewishgen.org/yizkor. The New York Public Library website has downloadable Yizkor books but they are not translated: <http://tinyurl.com/2vrpycx>

One consistent item noted by many of the panelists was the usefulness of a tour guide and the importance of providing as much background information as possible. Through the guides, they were able to make requests in advance that helped in obtaining records, finding locations and gaining access to places they might not otherwise be able to visit.

Jan Meisels Allen shared her visit to Stawiski, Poland in 2001 with photographs of the town as it looked today compared to old postcards of the town during WWI. She also shared a photograph of the synagogue taken by the pre WWII area

photographer with the building today that is now a firehouse and movie theater. Jan also shared meeting residents who talked of hiding their Jewish neighbor during the war and their writing to her after the visit and how she is still in touch with them. Jan also showed photographs of the memorial 4 km outside of town for the 800 Jews who were shot after digging their own graves in July 1941.

Ken Saul, M.D. with his sister Marlene Englander went on the Jewish Heritage Tour to Belarus and Lithuania. The tour started in Vilnius, where they were able to find their mother's home from before WWII -she left in 1935. They had wanted to dig up the backyard to find family valuables that were buried, but promised their mother they would not do that as another person



recently was imprisoned in Lithuania for doing the same thing to their ancestral home. Through working in advance with a tour guide and researcher they found

documents with their mother's real name—as she had been ill as a child she was renamed to “fool the angel of death”. Marlene with their mother wrote a book, *My Dear Hindella Remember Me Letters from a Lost World May 1937-January 1940*, a copy of which was donated to the JGSCV Library. During the question and answer period, the issue of radiation from Chernobyl and the hazards of visiting Belarus were discussed. Ken said they had been warned that 99 percent of Belarus' soil is still contaminated and for their trip, they did not stay in Belarus—but in Latvia because they were told not to eat nor drink anything in Belarus when they traveled to the country.

Sara Applebaum talked of her four-day visit to Poland. Her father was born in Warsaw and family lived in nearby towns. She started her part of the program by reminding the audience of how her family escaped from Poland and went to Siberia then Kyrgyzstan, where she was born, and lived in Poland after WWII—then Belgium and finally immigrated to the US. On her trip to Warsaw, they found the house

where her grandfather lived before WWII— which is now an apartment house. In visiting where her mother's family came from close to Lodz, they found where her great grandfather lived but the current occupant refused



them entry. She noted the importance of going to Auschwitz to prove that “we did not all perish”. Sara talked to JGSCV previously about her life story when she talked about her book *Lost and Found, A Family Memoir* and her second book a novel based on information from her family, *Pomorska Street*.

Sonia Hoffman talked about her trip to Ariogola, Lithuania. She compared old photographs on post cards with current day photographs. She shared photographs of herself, her husband, tour



guide and driver looking through the town and “cleaning” the shrubbery from the Jewish cemetery so they could document the names of those surviving headstones. Someone had saved a lamp from the old synagogue—the only thing remaining from the synagogue and gave to the photographer who was researching synagogues. Sonia also talked about meeting the town historian who was trying to trace the Jewish families and photograph houses today—which is low-income housing. The historian had photographs from 1924 and a sketch of a home of the family tree in 1934. Sonia also showed photographs of the holocaust memorial of the 662 Jewish people shot on September 8, 1941.

Mike Sanders shared his visit to his father's towns- Veitshöchheim and Suhl Germany. Mike showed us photographs of

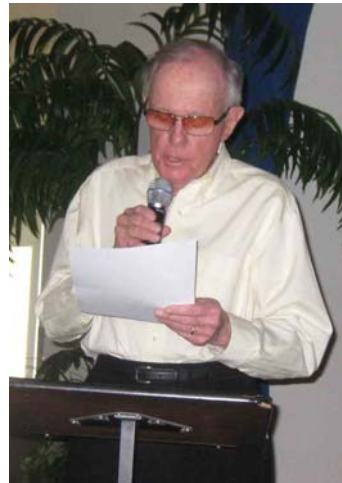


the town and his paternal grandmother's home when he visited and - an illustration of the home on the family tree from 1934 and an oil painting by her sister in 1975. Suhl was in Eastern Germany

during the Soviet era and bordered between east/west Germany. The contrast between east and west was astounding. Suhl is the town where his father grew up and Mike was able to find his grandfather's home and showed photographs of that home.

Ed Jones talked about his visit to his paternal ancestral town in Wales. His father's father Hugh Morris Jones immigrated at the age of 17 on the Mauritania, a sister ship to the Lusitania. Ed informed us that in Wales the oldest son has their names reversed, and that

Jones means son of John or Sean. Therefore, his grandfather Hugh Jones was really John Hughes. The ancestral town had about 500 people and was about 5 miles south of Caernarfon Castle in northwest Wales. He was also able to walk the same route to his father's high school. Unlike other countries, Wales does not have houses with street numbers, but with names. Ed also gave a short history of the



Celts and Druids. He talked about his father's thesis where he commented on the similarities between Jews and Welsh due to the love of

music and arts and both being victims of a more dominant society and the people had to live by their wits. Ed also shared photos of the town and a castle as well as maps and a newsletter.

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JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

By Jan Meisels Allen

Both by Congressional resolution and by Presidential proclamation, May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM).



JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

History

The Library of Congress reports¹ that Jewish American Heritage Month had its origins in 1980 when Congress passed a law that authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating a week in April or May as Jewish Heritage Week. President Carter issued this first proclamation in April 1980. Between 1981 and 1990, Congress annually passed public laws proclaiming a week in April or May as Jewish Heritage Week and Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush issued annual proclamations, which detailed important events in the history of the Jews. Between 1995 and 2006, Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush issued a series of annual presidential proclamations designating a week in April or May of each year as Jewish Heritage Week.

On February 14, 2006, Congress issued a resolution, which stated:

“Resolved ... that Congress urges the President to issue each year a proclamation calling on State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe an American Jewish History Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.”

This Congressional Resolution resulted in President George W. Bush proclaiming that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM). “May is time to celebrate the contributions of American Jews to the fabric of our nation's lives.” Each May, the President of the U.S. issues a Proclamation, and, for the past several years, President Barack Obama has hosted a reception in the White House. This year’s proclamation by President Obama may be read at: <http://tinyurl.com/7agzdrb>.

The JAHM Coalition was formed in March 2007 and convened by United Jewish Communities (now The Jewish Federations of North America), The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) and the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS).

Website for JAHM

The website for JAHM is <http://www.jahm.us/index.aspxv>. It provides a number of interesting items, including a list of featured 2012 events and 50 states/50 stories where organizations may submit stories about the accomplishments and contributions of American Jewish men and women who have helped to weave the fabric of American history, culture, and society. Also available is “Tell Me a Story” about Jewish Americans featured for the contributions to and the impact on the American public. An historical timeline from the 16th to the 20th centuries is also featured.

¹ <http://tinyurl.com/o9luo4>

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TRAVELING LIBRARY

Since we reported in January 2012's newsletter the following books have been added to the JGSCV traveling library. If you have genealogically relevant books that you would like to donate, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org. The books in the traveling library are categorized A, B, C or D determining which come to which monthly meeting. All A books come to every meeting. Categories B, C and D alternate which month they are brought to the meeting. A full list of all of our permanent and traveling library holdings may be found on the website: www.jgscv.org.

A Brotherhood of Memory Jewish Landsmanshaftn in the New World Michael Weisser Basic Books NY 1985 (Category B)

A History of Jewish Costume Alfred Rubens Funk & Wagnalls NY 1967 (Category D)

A History of the Jews in America Howard M Sacher Alfred Knopf NY 1992 (Category C)

A Perspective of Pioneer Los Angeles Jewry Bicentennial Digest 1976 (Category C)

Comprehensive History of the Jews of Iran the Outset of the Diaspora. Habib Levy ed. from Persian Hooshang Ebrami Translated by George W. Maschke Mazda Publishers CA 2003 (Category D)

Dictionary of Jewish Biography. Dan Cohen-Sherbok Continuum Press New York 2005 (Category D)

Doña Gracia of the House of Nasi Cecil Roth Jewish Publication Society of America Philadelphia 1977 (Category C)

English-Yiddish Yiddish English Dictionary Uriel Weinreich McGraw Hill NY 1968 (Category B)

French-English –English French Dictionary Langenscheidt Barnes and Noble Germany 2005 (Category B)

German-English English-German Dictionary Langenscheidt Germany 1970 (Category B)

Great Jews in Music Darryl Lyman Jonathan David Publishers NY 1986 (Category D)

Great Jews on Stage and Screen Darryl Rev Ed. I Lyman Jonathan David Publishers 1994 (Category C)

Greece A Jewish History K.E. Fleming Princeton University Press N.J. 2008 (Category C)

History of the Jews of Los Angeles Max Vorspan and Lloyd Gartner Huntington Library Philadelphia 1970 (Category C)

How We Lived: A Documentary History of Immigrant Jews in America, 1880-1930 Irving Howe and Kenneth Libo Marek. New York 1979 (Category C)

In Search of Sugihara The Elusive Japanese Diplomat Who Risked His Life to Rescue 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust Hillel Levine Free Press NY 1996 (Category D)

Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Lithuania Second Ed. JGS Great Britain (Revised July 2011) (Category B)

Jewish Heritage Travel A Guide to Central an Eastern Europe Ruth Ellen Gruber

John Wiley & Sons NY 1992 (Category B)

Jewish Life in Canada William Kurelek and Abraham Arnold Hurtig Edmonton CN 1976 (Category D)

Jewish Life in Turkish Buda Tamas Raj and Peter Vasadi, Makkabi Budapest 2003 (Category B)

Jews in Old China Studies by Chinese Scholars. Sidney Shapiro, Hippocrene Books N.Y. 1988 (Category D)

Mandarins, Jews and Missionaries. The Jewish Experience in the Chinese Empire Michael Pollak The Jewish Publication Society of America Philadelphia, PA 1980 (Category D)

Millisle, Ireland WWII Haven for Kindertransport. Millisle Past and Present. Millisle & District Community Association 3. Jewish Visitors (Category D)

My Dear Hindella Remember Me Letters from a Lost World May 1937-January 1940

Marlene Englander Windjammer Publishing Ohio 2012 (Category B)

Outwitting History The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books Aaron Lansky Algonquin Books NC 2004 (Category D)

Polish- English- English-Polish Dictionary Langenscheidt Barnes and Noble Germany (Category B)

Portal to America: The Lower East Side 1870-1925 Photographs & Chronicles The Epic First America For Millions of Immigrants Allon Schoener Holt Rinehart & Winston NY 1967 (Category C)

Russian-English English-Russian Dictionary Washington Square Press NY 1964 (Category B)

The Balkan Jewish Communities: Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. Daniel J. Elazar, Harriet Pass Friedenreich, Baruch Hazzan and Adina Weiss Liberles. Center for Jewish Community Studies at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. University Press America. Maryland 1984 (Category C)

The American Jewish Album 1654 to the Present Allan Schoener Rizzoli NY 1985 (Category B)

The Expulsion 1492 Chronicles: An Anthology of Medieval Chronicles Relating to The Expulsion of the Jews from Spain and Portugal Ed. David Raphael Carmi House Press, CA 1992 (Category C)

The Destruction of the European Jews Raul Hilberg. Harper Torch Books NY1961 (Category B)

The International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame Joseph Siegman SPI Books 1992 (Category D)

The Jews of Los Angeles: Urban Pioneers Norman Stern So CA Jewish Historical Society LA 1981 (Category C)

The Jews of Moslem Spain Vol I, II Eliyahu Ashtor Jewish Publication Society of America Philadelphia 1973, 1979 (Category C)

The Jews in Soviet Russia Since 1917. Third Ed. Edited by Lionel Kochan. Oxford Univ. Press London, England 1978 (Category B)

The Jews of the United States: A Pictorial History 1654 to the Present Morris U. Schappes. Tercentenary Book Committee 1958 (Category C)

The Other 1492 Jewish Settlement in the New World Norman Finkelstein Scribner & Son NY 1989 (Category C)

The Rest of Us: The Rise of America's Eastern European Jews. Stephen Birmingham. Little Brown. Boston 1984 (Category B)

The Last Jews of Rădăuți Gursan-Salzman Photos Laurence Salzman Doubleday NY 1983 (Category B)

The Lost A Search for Six of Six million Daniel Mendelsohn Harper Collins NY 2006 (Category D)

The Pity of It All : A History of Jews in Germany, 1743-1933 Amos Elon Henry Hold NY 2002 (Category D)

The Vanished Worlds of Jewry Raphael Patai Macmillian Publishing NY 1980 (Category D)

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Congress for Jewish Culture Shulsinger Bros. NY 1968 (Category D)

Three Centuries of Jewish Life in America Carl Lowe Mallard Press NY 1992 (Category C)

Tracing Our Jewish Roots Miriam Sagan John Muir Publications New Mexico 1993 (Category D)

Vilna Israel Cohen Jewish Publication Society of America Philadelphia 1943 (Category B)

We Lived There Too In Their Words & Pictures Pioneer Jews and The Westward Movement of America 1630-1930 Kenneth Libo and Irving Howe. St. Martin's /Marek NY 1988. (Category C)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 8-10, LA MARRIOTT BURBANK

The 43rd Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10, 2012 At the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA. The theme for this year's Jamboree is *Lights, Camera, ANCESTORS! Spotlight on Family History.*

The Exhibit Hall is one of the most popular destinations at the Jamboree. The Hall is where visitors and attendees find software, books, subscriptions or other help. This year the

Exhibit Hall will be open to the public at no charge throughout the weekend.

At the Jamboree there are Genealogy Classes and more than 50 prominent speakers already scheduled. Topics to be covered range from online databases to traditional brick and mortar resources; from DNA to interviewing; from organization to military records. The weekend schedule can be viewed here: <http://tinyurl.com/7636mes>

The Jamboree can always use volunteers to help. If you have an hour or two, fill out the application at <http://tinyurl.com/cef4lv>

2012 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Sunday, June 3rd 1:30-3:30 PM Hal
Bookbinder, "Ships of Our Ancestors"

No July meeting due to IAJGS Conference in Paris July 15-18

Sunday, August 5th 1:30-3:30 PM
"Genealogy In The Round", Share your successes, failures, brick walls and artifacts

Sunday, Sept. 9th 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBD

Sunday, Oct. 7th 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBD

MONDAY, Nov. 5th 7:00-9:00 PM Program
TBD

Sunday, Dec. 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBD

2013 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Sunday, Jan. 6th 1:30-3:30 PM TBD

Sunday, Feb. 10th 1-5 PM

Annual Family History Library
Assisted Research Day

Sunday, March 3rd 1:30-3:30 PM
TBD

Sunday April 7th 1:30-3:30 PM TBD

Sunday, May 5th 1:30-3:30 PM

TENTATIVE TBD

Sunday, June 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM

JCC AT MILIKEN CLOSING

JGSCV A RECIPIENT

By Jan Meisels Allen

The JCC at Milken located in West Hills is closing this June. As reported in the *Jewish Journal* February 3, 2012, "The JCC at Milken survived the wave of Jewish community center closures that began in 2002, in part, because its property, Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus, was owned by The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles rather than the centers' parent organization, Jewish Community Centers of Greater Los Angeles. While the center struggled with debt and a loss of membership, its leadership was able to strike a deal with Federation in 2009 to remain on the campus... The Federation sold the building to the New Community Jewish High School last October. The high school is expecting to relocate to the renovated property from its current home on the property of Shomrei Torah Synagogue in September 2013."

<http://tinyurl.com/77aj2er>

The JCC had a remarkable library—the Rosenkrantz Library—which had general interest books as well as Judaica and Hebrew language books. The Friends of the Agoura Hills Library—which runs a used book store —*The Book Cellar*— whose sale proceeds go 100 percent to support the Agoura Hills Library was contacted by the JCC at Milken asking if we were interested in the entire library—the Friends pick up large donations. I serve on the Friends' Board of Directors, and spoke with the JCC staff on behalf of the JGSCV, The Agoura Hills Library and the Friends of the Agoura

Hills Library. The Agoura Hills Library www.colapublib.org/libs/agourahills/ where JGSCV has its permanent library, is one of 88 branches of the County of Los Angeles Library and is designated as the Holocaust and Hebrew language special collection library for the County Library System. The JCC was delighted that their collections would find new homes and that parts of the collection would be retained in other collections.

Over three days we packed up the entire Rosenkrantz Library—thousands of books—the majority of which are novels, biographies, children's books etc., and not Judaica, Hebrew or Holocaust related. JGSCV was the beneficiary of approximately 40 books to our traveling library—see page 10 for the list of books added to our traveling library since January 2012—the majority of which came from the JCC's Rosenkrantz Library. The books added went predominately to categories C and D. Some were books that were replacing existing books—being later versions—with the older versions being donated to the *Book Cellar* where they were originally purchased. The Hebrew language and holocaust books were given to the Agoura Hills Library and the remainder were given to the Friends of the Agoura Hills Library for sale to support the Agoura Hills Library. Any Yiddish books are being donated to the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts thanks to JGSCV member and Friends of the Agoura Hills Library board member Judy Karta. If you are interested in purchasing any of the books from the *Book Cellar* (they will be periodically be added to inventory)—it is open every Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM in the basement of the Agoura Hills Library/Agoura Civic Center building: 29901 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA.